



**M E D I A   R E L E A S E**  
STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 1, 2008

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**PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT  
OF TENNESSEE STATE HERITAGE AREAS PROGRAM**

**Nashville, Tenn.** - The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation will hold a series of public meetings in July to discuss the development of a State Heritage Areas Program. Modeled on the National Park Service's National Heritage Areas Program, this effort would provide technical assistance to Tennessee's rural communities as they work to preserve their natural, historic and cultural resources.

**East Tennessee**

- Athens - 6 p.m. on July 8 at the McMinn County Courthouse, located at 6 East Madison Avenue.
- Kingsport - 11 a.m. on July 9 at the Civic Auditorium, located at 1550 Fort Henry Drive.
- Farragut - 6 p.m. on July 9 at City Hall, located at 11408 Municipal Center Drive.

**Middle Tennessee**

- Shelbyville - 11 a.m. on July 7 at the Shelbyville Parks and Recreation Center, located at 220 Tulip Tree Drive.
- Nashville - 4 p.m. on July 7 at the Oaks Building, located at 1001 Kermit Drive.
- Cookeville - 11 a.m. on July 8 at the city's First Presbyterian Church.

**West Tennessee**

- Paris - 11 a.m. on July 11 at Krider Performing Arts Center, located at 650 Volunteer Drive.
- Jackson - 6 p.m. on July 11 at the Jackson Environmental Field Office, located at 1625 Hollywood Drive.

The State Heritage Areas Program is intended to increase regional identity and tourism; promote greater local involvement in regional planning; strengthen local commitments to conservation and historic preservation; encourage opportunities for interpretation and education for visitors and residents; and provide economic incentives to protect natural, historic and cultural resources.

For more information about the public meeting schedule, please call (615) 532-0748.

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